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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Production of Ball Bearings at New Plant in Sverdlovsk/  
Installation of Defective Polishing Machines

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1. "A new, large ball bearing combine started operations in mid-March 1953 in Sverdlovsk. This combine is subordinated to the Ministry of Defense Industry. It employs over 7,000 skilled workers. It is fully mechanized, and the production processes are mainly automatic. The machines installed at the combine were designed at the construction bureau of the Ministry of 'Stankostroyeniya' in Moscow in 1952.
2. "When the first shipments of ball bearings produced at this combine arrived in the large motor car plant in Yaroslavl, they were found to be so badly polished that they could not be used and had to be rejected. A special commission headed by (fnu) Myamlin, chief of the Technical Inspection Dept. of the Ministry of Machine Construction, and a military expert, Eng. (fnu) Mardanlyan, was immediately sent to the Sverdlovsk ball bearing combine. It carried out a thorough investigation between 20 March and 1 April 53. It concluded that the machines for polishing the bearings automatically had been faultily designed and built and were unsuitable for use. The production was immediately stopped and new machines, semiautomatic of a German production, were soon installed. As a result of the findings of this commission, the chief construction engineer of the construction bureau, (fnu) Chernko, has been arrested on charges of 'sabotage'. However, engineers and Party officials - including (fnu) Prudensky, (fnu) Vinogradov, and (fnu) Gryazncy - and over 30 foremen employed at the combine, who had been arrested on charges of sabotage, have been released."

-end-

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